N.O. Stripper Found Dead In Apartment

The nude, bruised body of a blonde strip-tease dancer was found lying on a mattress early today in a littered, third-floor French Quarter apartment which also held a small arsenal.

Police identified the woman as Betty Helton, 22, of 506 Gov. Nicholls, who danced at the Old Opera House Bar under the name of "Kitty Revelle."

BETTY HELTON

Her death was unclassified pending an autopsy.

Held for Questioning

Held for questioning was Dennis Hovde, 24, of 506 Gov. Nicholls, who shared the apartment with the woman.

Sam Moran, chief investigator for the Orleans Parish coroner, said the apartment also contained a .30-06 Enfield rifle with a cigar box full of shells, a .45-caliber Army Colt automatic with about 500 rounds of cartridges, and a case of shotgun shells.

Barbara Reid says she knew Bruce Lowens

Moran said the body bore bruises on both hips and both knees were freshly scraped.

Hovde told police the guns and ammunition belonged to a man, sought for some time by police and unidentified, who formerly lived in the apartment with Miss Helton. Hovde said he hadn't seen the man in about six weeks.

Hovde gave this account to police:

About 7 o'clock last night the Helton woman began rolling around on the floor of the apartment, as though suffering some internal pain.

He said she banged her arms and legs against the floor and that he tried to hold her down so she would not be injured.

Police said Hovde told them Miss Helton was nude and that she often went about the apartment in the nude because she felt more comfortable that way.

Hovde told police he blamed himself for the death because he did not call for an ambulance when she was in apparent pain.

When Miss Helton became quiet, Hovde said, he thought she was asleep and he went

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Dancer--

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into another room and went to sleep.

Police said the death to all appearances was a natural one.

Hovde said he awakened about 2:45 a. m. and, checking on the woman, found her body. He said he went downstairs and asked the manager of a restaurant on the ground floor to call police.

'Very Lonely Person'

Hovde described the dead woman as "a very lonely person—just like me. We're both alone in the world."

Police said the apartment is plastered with pictures cut from magazines and pictures were pasted on jars and bottles in the apartment.

A sword had been stuck in the floor in one room. There were several matresses and straw mats on the floors.

Moran said the littered apartment also contained a number of modernist paintings by Hovde.

One of the cartons of pistol ammunition, Moran said, had pasted on it a newspaper clipping which bore the words, "A Day of Disaster," in large type.

The case is being investigated by Sgt. James Howley and Det. George Bouyelas of the Homicide Squad.